

# **2019-A**

## **Support for Texas-CARES Implementation and Measurement**

It is the position of the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) that implementing the approach outlined in the Texas Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (TX-CARES) program can contribute to a significantly higher survival of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). The likelihood of survival is higher in witnessed than in unwitnessed arrests and is increased by early recognition, early activation of the 911 system, bystander CPR with instructions from telecommunicators, early defibrillation, and choreographed, minimally interrupted chest compressions. CARES is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant electronic registry developed by the CDC and serves as the US national cardiac arrest registry. Universal statewide participation would provide critical data and enable quality improvement efforts to improve survival and neurological outcomes. TX-CARES program promotes CPR Life Links, an evidence-based, federally-funded improvement effort focused on providing education and training to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies, personnel, and dispatch centers aimed at improving resuscitative efforts during OHCA.

GETAC recognizes the fundamental need, role, and public health benefit of the TX-CARES program. As such, it supports the emergence and sustainability of TX-CARES and strongly recommends that all EMS Agencies and hospitals in Texas participate in both the data collection and quality-improvement aims of TX-CARES and CPR Life links and supports on-going collaborative efforts aimed at providing sustainable future funding for the TX-CARES program.

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Council Chair, GETAC

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